

United Lutheran Church in America  
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# JAPAN

## *Lutheran Church*

# TODAY

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*Board of Foreign Missions*

AND

*Women's Missionary Society*

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

# GREETINGS

FROM  
JAPAN



# JAPAN LUTHERAN CHURCH TODAY

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These Japanese characters say:

*"Everyone do your share"*

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

*and*

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

*of the*

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

1949

— JAPAN LUTHERAN CHURCH TODAY —



This outline map of Japan shows the locations of the various centers in which the Lutheran Church in Japan is at work.





## EMPEROR'S VISIT

"He is just like us," said a Japanese mother in the cheering crowd which welcomed the Emperor of Japan to Kumamoto. "Before the war we would have to bow our heads very low. No one dared look up. Now we can all look right at him and he smiles at us. I believe he likes it better that way."

The Emperor visited our Colony of Mercy, Jiai En, which includes a home for children, for aged, for war widows, a large kindergarten, school and home for delinquent boys. This Lutheran Institution was selected by government officials as the one social welfare project of the whole Prefecture most suitable for a visit by the Emperor.

A courteous, middle-aged man bowed to the missionaries and others as they were presented to him. He had friendly greetings for the children, words of sympathy for the sick, the aged, and the widows, and praise for our devoted workers.

## BRIEFLY STATED

Lutheran work was begun in Japan in 1892. The first efforts were made at Saga on the Island of Kyushu. A second center was established in Kumamoto in 1898. By 1908 there were three missionary families and two unmarried men on the field. Church membership was 360.

The need of educational work was recognized and the training of Japanese for Christian work among their own people was given an early start. Even in 1909, a beginning was made in theological education. Kyushu Gakuin, our School for Boys, was opened in 1911 at Kumamoto. By 1921, sixteen additional missionaries had come into the field and work was expanded in a dozen cities. The work of the Mission grew steadily and various objectives were set and realized: The Theological Seminary at Tokyo; Kyushu Jo Gakuin (Girls' School) at Kumamoto; Chapel for the Boys' School, founded in 1911; building of the Colony of Mercy (Jiai En); Christian welfare work at Tokyo; establishment of a prospering Kindergarten work; Church buildings for congregations, and residences for missionaries.

The war took heavy toll. There was not only property loss, but besides that, many people died, congregations were scattered, families or remnants of them were rendered homeless, some pastors died or were killed. Casualties are evident in the following comparative set of figures. However, a new growth has set in and larger numbers are apparent, especially among the youth and children. The total of baptized membership is rising and our missionary staff is building up.

	1941	1949
Baptized Members .....	5240	3124
Sunday Schools .....	52	32
Teachers .....	201	50
Pupils .....	2319	3000
Pastors .....	43	35
Theological Students .....	18	7
Boys' School—Pupils .....	769	1192
Girls' School—Pupils .....	330	761
Kindergartens—Pupils .....	750	1150
Missionaries .....	35	25

Japanese Christians have made a heartening recovery since the war. They have rallied with their pastors in reconstruction, offering gifts even out of their extreme poverty.

Just before the war, under government pressure, most of the Protestant Churches joined the Kyodan, the United Church of Christ in Japan. This included our Lutheran Church. After the war our Lutheran group decided to withdraw from this United Church because they could feel no doctrinal stability in that union. Our Church, however, has become a part of the National Christian Council of Japan.

The most remarkable fact about Christianity in Japan is that in these postwar years there is everywhere an eagerness on the part of the Japanese people to know the Christian Bible and Christian Faith. General McArthur says, "Where the Church formerly sent one missionary, it should today send one hundred." The opportunity of a century is upon us for sharing the Message of Christ with the Japanese. Our missionaries and other workers are kept busy answering requests for instruction. More missionaries and more funds to send them and more budget to finance their activities are the crying needs of our Church in Japan.

### THE MISSIONARIES

Miss Virginia Aderholdt  
Miss Martha B. Akard  
Rev. and Mrs. Howard Alsdorf  
Rev. and Mrs. Harold Deal  
Miss Bertha Fromble  
Miss Helene Harder  
Miss Mary C. Heltibridle, Ph.D.  
Rev. and Mrs. B. Paul Huddle  
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Knudten

Mr. and Mrs. Sedoris McCartney  
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. L. S. G. Miller  
Rev. and Mrs. Lloyd Neve  
Miss Marion Potts  
Miss Annie Powlas  
Miss Maud Powlas  
Rev. Dr. A. J. Stirewalt  
Rev. and Mrs. Donald M. Wilson  
Miss Maya Winther

Miss Mary E. Wood

#### *Under Appointment*

Miss Elizabeth C. Huddle  
Miss Marjorie M. Miller  
Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Roth



OKUBO

RESTORED

Okubo Church in Tokyo was badly damaged by the war, but the people worshipped in the wreck of their building. After the missionaries returned, the congregation, with considerable help from America, bravely undertook the work of restoration and the completed building was rededicated in 1948.

#### *Other Churches in Tokyo Area*

1. Ebara, badly damaged—a new lot purchased.
2. Tonan, with Church and parsonage intact.
3. Koiwa, worshipping in a rented building.
4. Seminary Congregation, worshipping in the Seminary Chapel.

In near-by Yokohama:

1. Hodogaya, a preaching place with a Sunday School.
2. Tsurumi, a Sunday School only, but the people are ready to organize into a congregation.





*At Nagoya, the congregation rejoices in its new Church, the Hamm Memorial, a prefabricated structure made possible by the generous gift of a layman in America.*



## **OTHER CHURCHES**

Churches in the southern part of the Island of Honshu, in addition to those pictured on this page:

1. Kyoto, ancient city of Japan, not bombed, and therefore our Church property is all safe.
2. East and West Kobe, where our property is also safe and where work continues as before with special strength in the Kindergarten.
3. Osaka, with Church and parsonage intact.
4. At Hiroshima our Church was destroyed. Most of the members perished, including the parsonage family except the pastor who was out of town. Living in one small room, he is bravely gathering a congregation together and is at present conducting worship in his own room.



*At Shimonoseki, known to many American soldiers as a transfer center, our Church and parsonage were destroyed. A prefabricated Church and parsonage have been erected.*



*With joy the members gathered for the laying of the cornerstone at Hakata.*



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The Church at Hakata, in the island of Kyushu, was destroyed. It was restored largely with funds from America and made ready for dedication in time for the Church Convention in the fall of 1948.

It should be noted that Hakata is part of the city of Fukuoka.

*The procession enters the Church at Hakata for the dedication service.*

Leaving the island of Honshu with its large cities of Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, and others, we proceed to the southern island of Kyushu, where, in addition to Hakata, our Church is active in the places mentioned on the next page.

### THE HAKATA CHURCH

*Rising among the ruins of devastating war is this house of God, a witness to the power of the Christian Faith and a call to men to know Christ, the Saviour.*



## KYUSHU CHURCHES

*Moji*—Property safe. Work goes on as usual. Kindergarten in operation.

*Noagata*—Property safe. Church work continues.

*Nobeoka*—Congregation worships in home of a member.

*Karatsu*—Worship conducted in rented building.

*Yawata*—Property safe. Work continues.

*Hita*—Property safe. Work continues.

*Hakozaki*—Congregation worships in Kindergarten building. Parsonage needed. Kindergarten in operation.

*Kurume*—Church has been repaired. Church work continues as usual.

*Saga*—Property safe. New parsonage built. Kindergarten in operation.

*Ogi*—Property safe. Parsonage needed. Kindergarten in operation.

*Omuta*—Church building needed.

*Kumamoto:*

*Suido Cho*—Parsonage restored. Church building needed. Kindergarten in operation.

*Oe Machi*—Worship in boys' school chapel.

*Murazono*—Worship in girls' school chapel. Parsonage recently acquired. Kindergarten in operation. Church needed.

*Kuwamizu*—Worship in Colony of Mercy Kindergarten. Kindergarten in operation. Church needed.

*Amagi*—Parsonage and Church recently purchased. Pastor Fujita is in charge.

*Kagoshima*—Newly organized. Worship in member's home.

*Minamata*—Property safe. Church, Sunday School and Kindergarten continue. Kindergarten building needed.





*Four new Japanese pastors were ordained in Hakata in November, 1948.*

The first missionaries to return to Japan after the war found our pastors in desperate need. Many of them, engaged in some secular work to make a living, were faithfully conducting services and keeping the congregations together. They have been made happy by the knowledge that fellow Christians in America found joy in sending help to them personally, and to the continuing work of the Church. The number of pastors in August, 1949, was thirty-five, all in active work and serving congregations, except two in educational work and one on temporary sick leave. The number before the war was forty-three.

## PASTORS and SEMINARY

Pastors should be well prepared for spiritual ministry to their people. The Seminary (below) gives our men a good foundation for the Faith which they will proclaim, and gives them a thorough training in the fundamentals of Christian teaching and in practical preaching, pastoral work, and evangelism. Used by the United Church (Kyodan) in wartime, the Seminary is at last restored to our Church.







*Some of the Church leaders (Executive Committee) working on the budget for 1950, were photographed during the visit to Japan by Dr. L. A. Gotwald and Miss Helen Shirk, Secretaries of the Board.*

**PASTORS**

**ACTIVITIES**



*Pastor Sakane (left) and family, with Dr. and Mrs. L. S. G. Miller, Miss Helen Shirk, and Dr. Gotwald.*

Pastor Sakane has had experience in newspaper evangelism. This type of Christian work is to be reorganized and the Board Secretary on Special Gifts is seeking to find interested donors who wish to contribute to a special kind of Christian effort.

In Japan almost every individual can read, and people in Japan eagerly peruse whatever reading material they can lay their hands on, especially in these postwar days when the scarcity of paper makes reading material precious.



*Always enjoying a good reputation in educational circles, our Boys' School in Kumamoto (above) has drawn Japanese boys to the number of almost twelve hundred, taxing the facilities of space and equipment.*

## KYUSHU GAKUIN

Under the leadership of Dr. L. S. G. Miller, Dean, and Mrs. Miller, the religious work and the music department have had a determining influence in our Boys' School. The principal is now Mr. Kawase.

Of added significance is the religious teaching carried by Mr. and Mrs. Sedoris McCartney who conduct Bible classes in the school and in their own home. A student, who has become a Christian under their instruction, is now working with them, giving able assistance, and constantly intent in his eagerness to share his new Faith with his fellow students. Similar Bible classes are conducted through the length and breadth of our Church in Japan today.

*In the picture below members of staff and student body greet the McCartneys on their arrival. Dr. and Mrs. Miller, left center, Mrs. and Mr. McCartney and Mr. Kawase, right center.*





A friendly Christian atmosphere invites the girls of Japan to happy school days at Kyushu Jo Gakuin, junior and senior high school for girls. The picture shows the front entrance to the main building. Rev. I. Miura is the efficient principal. Miss Akard has been the guiding spirit in the development of the school. Other missionaries are Miss Marion Potts, Miss Virginia Aderholdt, and Miss Mary Heltibridle. Religious classes and a chapel service are conducted daily.



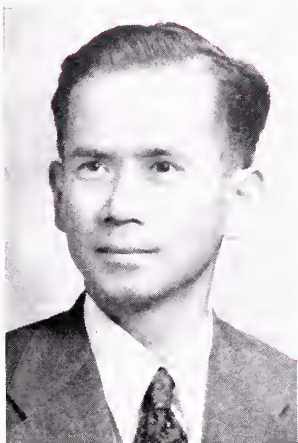
## **JO GAKUIN**



Our school for girls at Kumamoto, provides the usual academic courses. Besides this, it offers training in music, sewing, cooking, typing, gardening, and other interesting activities. Some students (Y.W.C.A.) participate in community Sunday School and social welfare work.

War always leaves its mark upon the morals of a nation. Property is not safe from extensive thieving, and these young girls have been delegated to lock up in the school office the sewing machines used in their class in domestic science at Kyushu Jo Gakuin.

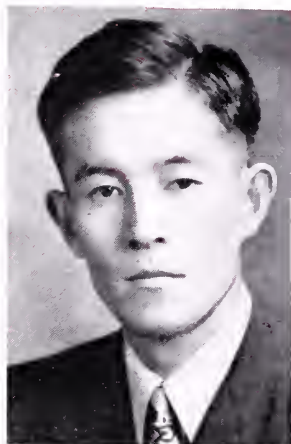
## STUDENTS



REV. ATSUME TASAKA



MISS TOKIKO KAWAGIRI



REV. NAOHICO IDE

## IN AMERICA

## AND IN JAPAN

Rev. Atsume Tasaka came to America in 1948 for study in preparation for developing the Department of Religious Education in our Church in Japan.

Miss Tokiko Kawagiri, teacher in our Girls' School at Kumamoto, is studying (1948-49) at Biblical Seminary, New York, for her work in religious education in Japan.

Rev. Naohiko Ide arrived in America July 20, 1949, to study at Chicago Theological Seminary in preparation for his teaching in our Seminary in Tokyo.

Miss Kawase and Miss Hashimoto are the first two women students at the Theological Seminary at Tokyo. They are preparing for service as parish workers.

MISS KAWASE  
MISS HASHIMOTO







It is lunch time at Old Folks Home. The Church has a Home for Old Folks on the outskirts of Tokyo, which is a continuation of the emergency work begun at the time of the great earthquake in 1923. A home for widows was destroyed during the war and not since restored.

## **CHRISTIAN WELFARE**

In Tokyo, also, is a social welfare work conducted by Miss Annie Powlas by which shelter and care are given to widows, orphans, street urchins, homeless people, and others in need. In the picture below Miss Annie Powlas is busy with new construction on her tract of land devoted to Christian Welfare work.





*Children of war widows find a home and friends among Christians.*

The Colony of Mercy (Jiai En) has been repaired, reclaimed, and enlarged. The Old Folks Home has been rebuilt. On two recently purchased tracts of land, a home has been opened for roving delinquent boys, another for war widows and children. In the nearby repatriate camp, this organization conducts a three-teacher Kindergarten and a sewing school. Preparations have been under way for starting a day nursery for the children of working mothers. The staff has been increased from 7 to 38 full time workers, 18 of whom grew up in the Colony of Mercy. Hundreds of non-Christian youth have offered their lives in service for their fellow underprivileged.

## COLONY OF MERCY

*Farm land at the Colony of Mercy provides work for some and food for many.*





Street urchins, homeless boys, youthful delinquents are among those welcomed and cared for in the Colony of Mercy.

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The boys pause for a rest in their work. They are building a special refuge, a Shangri-la, for the director, Miss Maud Powlas. In this little office and study, at her own chosen hour during the day, the missionary can plan her work undisturbed.





*Friendly Christian teachers guide eager young minds.*

**LET THE**

**CHILDREN**

Wherever there is a well equipped Kindergarten with trained Christian teachers, there is a center for reaching into the life of the community with our Christian message. Fifty children coming daily, open fifty Japanese homes. Weekday religious classes for big brothers and sisters, evening classes for maids and servants, parent-teacher meetings, all become part of the program. The Sunday School session is crowded with friends of the children. The Winning of the Children of Japan for Christ becomes the mission of every Kindergarten. But through the children many a parent learns to know the Christian message and turns to the light that lighteth every man the way to God.

A Kindergarten Alumni Association brings former Kindergarteners together year after year for meetings. In this way the Christian influence and Christian teaching is continued and often these people, as grown-ups, finally become members of the Christian Church.



*"Sure, I like the Kindergarten."*





*Lunch out-of-doors at Jo Gakuin Kindergarten, Kumamoto.*

## **COME UNTO ME**

The parents of the children, especially the mothers, take a keen interest in the Kindergarten and are unfailingly cooperative and helpful. They quickly see the relation between the Christian care of the children and the Saviour Who inspires that care. Below, a group of mothers, with Miss Harder, greets Miss Shirk on her visit to Japan. She taught their children years ago.



Earnest Christian teachers in Japan are partners with us in adding to the daily lessons that wisdom which comes from above. Undaunted by impoverished surroundings, inadequate equipment, insufficient number of textbooks, these brave souls lead young receptive minds into the knowledge of Him Whom to know is life indeed.

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*Teacher and children are absorbed in the process of learning even in this poorly equipped schoolroom.*

*This college-educated young woman gives her time freely in enthusiastic service for Sunday School work.*







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Kindly old Pastor Yamauchi at the age of eighty, responds to the urgent need of teachers and leaders in the Sunday Schools to which fathers and mothers of Japan are eagerly sending their children today. A chocolate factory proprietor has generously supplied his factory building for the meeting of this large Sunday School of two hundred children.

When his teacher told about American children doing odd jobs to earn money to send for the help of the Japanese people, young Togo (at the extreme left) organized his classmates to gather firewood and sell it. They devoted the proceeds to buying food for needy Japanese children in Kumamoto.





*A group of Luther Leaguers. Mr. Yasuzumi Eto, president of the organization, stands at the extreme right holding some papers. He is a teacher in Kyushu Jo Gakuin and helped establish a Y.M.C.A. in the city of Kumamoto.*

## YOUTH OF JAPAN

Young people in our Lutheran Church in Japan have organized a Luther League. They have taken it very seriously and have drawn up a declaration of their purpose which includes a statement of their Faith in Christ the Saviour and their determination to be witnesses not only in word but also in action.

Christian youth enjoy taking part in community projects. Many of them offer their services in speeches of instruction, in helpful hands that promote reconstruction programs, in personal work to enlist others in service.



*Daughters of Principal Kawase at Kyushu Gakuin take part in community work.*





*As an orphan in the Colony of Mercy, Fujita is happy in friendly Christian surroundings.*

## FUGITA, ORPHAN IN JAPAN



*Blind Pastor Ishimatsu speaks to the children in their Sunday School.*

*Fujita and his bride.*



"Fujita, Orphan in Japan" is the colored 16mm motion picture (35 minutes) offered by the Board of Foreign Missions as a part of the story of our Lutheran Church in Japan today.



*Pastor Yamaouchi, Rev. Dr. A. J. Stirewalt, a youthful inquirer.*

## PAST—PRESENT—FUTURE

The wise heads of older leaders and the fire and vigor of inspired young people are in the picture of the Lutheran Church in Japan today. With Faith in Christ we look through their consecrated efforts to the Church of Japan in the future.

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The needs of the Church in Japan today can be seen in the pages of this booklet:

*Church buildings • Parsonages • Kindergartens • Missionary residences*

*Automobiles • More missionaries • Bibles and Hymnals*

*Additional funds to support more missionaries in their work*

*Modern visual materials for missionaries and national workers*

*Special funds for unusual projects such as newspaper evangelism and youth camps*

*Christian literature for children and youth*

*Equipment for boys' and girls' schools and kindergartens*



The Church in Japan today needs Christian people in America who will pray for Japan and the Japanese, and who will learn to know Japan and her people. "He who knows cares; he who cares, shares."

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